

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN SOCIETY SERIES - STAGS SAUL PADOVER

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 2617-C

B. JAKARTA 6672-U

C. SINGAPORE 2487-C

D. USIA 12144

SUMMARY: POST'S POST-MORTEM OF PADOVER-MANN SEMINAR RESULTS EVOKED MIXED REACTION. WHILE OVERALL RESULT CAN BE CONSIDERED NET PLUS, LITTLE QUESTION THAT PROGRAM FAILED TO LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS. DISAPPOINTMENT LARGELY DUE TO PROFESYR PADOVER SUB-PAR EVENING PERFORMANCE BEFORE SELECT AUDIENCE. HOWEVER, AMERICAN SOCIETY THEME DIFFICULT ONE TO PROGRAM EFFECTIVELY AND PLANNED PROGRAM SERIES SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND ANALYZED CAREFULLY BEFORE IT IS CONTINUED. END SUMMARY.

1. MAIN EVENT OF SINGAPORE PROGRAM WAS EVENING FIVE-HOUR
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DISCUSSION AND DINNER FOR GROUP OF TWENTY-FIVE KEY

POLITICIANS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ACADEMICS, NEWSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS. TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE ON THIS DIFFICULT TO PROGRAM THEME, PADOVER AND MANN WERE ASSIGNED PROMINENT SINGAPOREAN "HOSTS" TO INTRODUCE THEM AND COMMENT ON THEIR PRESENTATIONS. SESSION WAS CHAIRED BY CHARGE.

2. ORIGINALLY POST HAD PLANNED USE SAME SPEAKER TOPICS AS KUALA LUMPUR, BUT AFTER TIMELY TELEPHONED WARNING RE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED THERE, AND DISCUSSIONS WITH MANN AND PADOVER, NEW SUBJECTS MORE PERTINENT TO SINGAPORE INTERESTS WERE SELECTED. MAN SPOKE ON "WATERGATE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICAN SOCIETY", WHILE PADOVER SPOKE ON "ORGANIZATION OF US FOREIGN POLICY". BOTH SPOKE IN MORNING SESSIONS TO SMALL GROUP OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS IN TRAINING ON SAME THEME.

3. PADOVER'S PRESENTATION WAS UNEVEN. IN MORNING SESSION HE MADE SHORT AND ARTICULATE PRESENTATION PROVIDING INSIGHTS ON CONGRESSIONAL REASSERTION OF POWER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ROLE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PRESSURE GROUPS. HE THEN RETIRED TO HOTEL TO SLEEP, AND HAD TO BE AWAKENED FEW MINUTES BEFORE EVENING SEMINAR WAS TO BEGIN. PERHAPS HE WAS SIMPLY TOO TIRED, BUT IN CONTRAST TO MORNING PERFORMANCE EVENING'S WAS DULL RENDERING OF BASIC CIVICS, POORLY DELIVERED AND BADLY GEARED FOR HIS HIGHLY EDUCATED AND SOPHISTICATED AUDIENCE. HE IMPROVED SOMEWHAT IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION SESSION, BUT STILL FAILED TO RELATE EFFECTIVELY TO QUESTIONS AND QUESTIONERS. APPARENTLY HE RECOVERED HIMSELF IN SUBSEQUENT ANIMATED DINNER CONVERSATION.

4. CONTRAST BETWEEN PADOVER'S TWO PRESENTATIONS DISTURBING. BASED ON EVENING PERFORMANCE ALONE, BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT OF TWO, OUR JUDGMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE THOROUGHLY NEGATIVE. FORTUNATELY MANN DID MUCH TO SALVAGE PROGRAM.

5. MANN PRSENTED CONVINCING INTERPRETATION OF WATERGATE AS "BENIGN AND INEPT RIGHT WING REACTION" WHICH IN LONG RUN WOULD HAVE UNINTENTIONAL EFFECT OF UNIFYING NATION. HE EMPHASIZED US ABILITY "IN SPITE OF WATERGATE" TO PLAY STRONG LEADERSHIP ROLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY MID-EAST. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANN PARTICULARLY GOOD IN DISCUSSION SESSION, PHRASING ANSWERS TO COMPLIMENT QUESTIONERS. HOWEVER, HE IS NOT DYNAMIC SPEAKER, AND OCCASIONALLY FAILS TO COMMUNICATE CONVINCING KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SUBJECT.

6. HAVING SAID ABOVE WE WISH TO STRESS BOTH MEN PERSONABLE, EFFECTIVE IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS AND RESPONSIVE TO POST BRIEFINGS AND SUGGESTIONS.

7. POST EVALUATION EFFECTIVENESS THIS PROGRAM MIXED. IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE KICKOFF FOR PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN SOCIETY SERIES. ELABORATE DISCUSSION/DINNER FORMAT DEvised TO SET TONE AND ATTRACT AUDIENCE. IF THIS WENT WELL, FUTURE PROGRAMS WOULD BE EASIER. UNFORTUNATELY, PADOVER AND MANN FAILED TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT INTEREST TO STIMULATE AUTOMATIC AUDIENCE RETURN NEXT TIME AROUND. ON OTHER

HAND PROGRAM MARKED BY UNPRECEDENTED SINGAPOREAN/AMERICAN DIALOGUE ON DOMESTIC AMERICAN ISSUES IN SEMI-PUBLIC SETTING, A SIGN OF INCREASING SINGAPOREAN INTEREST. AND WE WERE ALSO, THANKS TO TIMELY GUIDANCE FROM KUALA LUMPUR, ABLE TO AVOID MOST NEGATIVE ASPECTS K.L. EXPERIENCE PROGRAMMING PADOVER. FURTHERMORE, SAUL PADOVER IS PROMINENT MAN WITH DISTINGUISHED REPUTATION AND MANY IN THE AUDIENCE KNEW THAT, THUS SOFTENING EFFECT OF HIS POOR EVENING PERFORMANCE.

8. WE AGREE WITH KUALA LUMPUR FUTURE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY SERIES SHOULD UNDERGO CAREFUL ANALYSIS. BOTH MANN AND PADOVER WERE SOMEWHAT CONFUSED AS TO WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF THEM. AND YET BOTH WERE WELL BRIEFED. PERHAPS PART OF PROBLEM AT LEAST LAY IN AMBIGUITY OF ASSIGNMENT. PERHAPS "AMERICAN SOCIETY" OF EVEN "RESILIENT SOCIETY" ARE RUBRICS TOO BROADFOR ADEQUATE COMMUNICATION EVE XAMONG PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS. PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING MORE SPECIFIC TOPICS. PERHAPS DURING BICENTENNIAL YEAR IT WILLNAE POSSIBLE, BUT AT MOMENT, IT IS STILL PREMATURE ADDRESS CONCEPTUALLY IDEALS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SINGAPORE AUDIENCE. MOST EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS WOULD BE PACKAGED WITH GIMMICK SUCH AS DENBY AND FILMS OR INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM. FOR THE LATTER, WE MAKE PLEA FOR AGENCY CONSIDERATION TWO MAJOR PROJECTS IN POST'S CP: "MASS MEDIA IN CONTEMPORARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIETY" AND "DOMESTIC DETERMINANTS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY."

9. PASSING OF INFO CONTAINED THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER THAN ABOVE ADDRESSEES LEFT TO DISCRETION OF AGENCY.
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